

THE EXTENDED FAMILY

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Volume 25 Issue 6

August 2018

Steve's Slant

What does church look like when it's not church anymore, at least not church as we've always known it?

That is a question pastors and church leaders at all levels have been asking for quite some time now. It's a challenging question, for sure, and one with far-reaching implications.

The reason it's being asked is simple: People -- especially young people -- aren't going to church anymore, at least not in the numbers we used to see, when attending church on Sunday morning was a regular, indeed, a sacrosanct part of American life.

There are as many reasons to explain this shift in church attendance as there are people who are focused on studying the trend. We've looked at some of those reasons before in this space, and we don't need to cover that ground again now.

What I would like to focus on instead is an idea I heard for the first time yesterday, at the July meeting of Presbytery: the concept of "holy experimentation."

That is the phrase Bobbi White, our General Presbyter, used to describe efforts going on throughout our presbytery to imagine what church might look like in these changing times.

I love the idea for two reasons. First because it points to the kind of innovative thinking that is necessary if we expect the church at large to remain a viable, dynamic and relevant part of American life.

But I also love the idea because it rests on a deeper truth: long-established patterns of church attendance might be changing, but human nature has not changed. Whether you're eighteen or eighty-eight, we are built for community and, with very rare exceptions, we all crave meaningful connections with other people, and with the Divine, however we might conceive of that.

I'm saying this because in just a few weeks we will launch our programmatic year with our customary bang:

- On August 26th, we will host our annual pot luck for new students. **(PLEASE NOTE: We will also return to our 11:00 start time on that Sunday.)**
- On September 2nd, Labor Day Sunday, we'll mark the end of summer with our now familiar outdoor service in the Pavilion. **(Per the above paragraph: this service will be at 11:00!)**
- On September 9th, we will launch our Sunday school/Christian education/spiritual nurture classes for children and adults.

Sunday morning worship will always be the centerpiece of our life together. Even there we're giving focused thought to how we can add color and sound and different textures in our service that will deepen our collective worship experience, and you'll see some of these creative expressions in our services this Fall.

(Continued on page 7)



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August Birthdays!

Beth Meriwether	Aug. 1	Ray Stock	Aug. 1
Darcy Orr	Aug. 4	Alisa White	Aug. 6
Elaine Barnes	Aug. 8	Blake Joslin	Aug. 8
John Craven	Aug. 9	Pat Levi	Aug. 11
Bill Moser	Aug. 11	Paulette Heck	Aug. 12
Vicki Collins	Aug. 14	Jerry Vaneman	Aug. 19



SPIRITUAL NURTURE GROUP

The Spiritual Nurture group meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. This will continue throughout the summer. All are welcome.



Join us on August 3 as we travel to the ballpark for baseball, hotdogs, fun and fireworks! This has become an annual favorite outing for our church, arranged by Susan Laney each year. It's a fellowship opportunity you won't want to miss.

Come Try Choir!

As our fall season begins soon, we hope others in the congregation may be interested in joining our choir family.

So, on August 22 you have a special opportunity. We are having a special **"Come Try Choir"** Rehearsal for anyone who would like to bring your talent out of the shower and try joining the choir. Our regular choir members will be there too and welcome you. You will never have to sing alone and all that is required is a love of music and the desire to help lead worship at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. We'll all rehearse to prepare for an easy anthem for the following Sunday.

We hope you may consider this special invitation to this *"Come to Choir"* event. Make your plans to meet on **Wednesday, August 22, 7:00-8:30 P.M. in the Chapel** for this special rehearsal.

Question? Contact the church office to reach our Director of Music, Vivian Hare

**PWNC Missions Committee
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
2018 Fall Mission Trips
September 16-22, 2018 - Lumberton, NC
October 14-20, 2018 - Fayetteville, NC**

What will we do?

Help folks rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Where will we stay?

A church facility has been designed to house groups coming in to work.

What is the cost?

\$125 per person includes food/lodging.

(Financial assistance available upon request)

How many can go?

We have space for 15 folks.

How can I sign up?

Registration forms will be available at the PWNC website.

Church Mission Committees/ Pastors/Sessions

Please offer this information to your congregations.

September 16-22, 2018 - Lumberton, NC

October 14-20, 2018 - Fayetteville, NC



Rev. Bobbi White with Rev. Fraser and Susan Penny at the picnic on July 8.



Rev. Fraser was welcomed and presented with a stole from Guatemala by Presbyter Rev. Bobbi White during the service. Rev. Grace Boyer taught the youth sign language for the Choral Blessing. Emily Sprague did a beautiful job of piping at the beginning and end of the service and continued out in front of the Chapel. Rev. Penny with Rev. Legerton at the picnic.

The annual church picnic was a big success as we celebrated and welcomed the Penny's



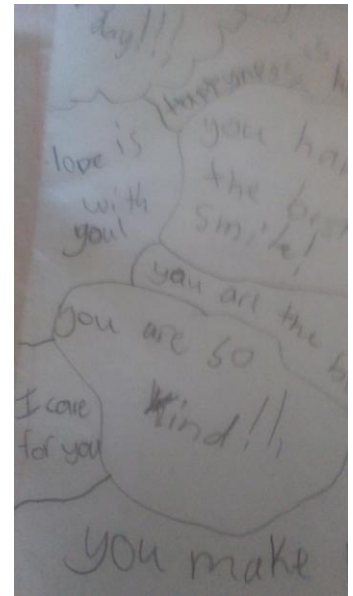
To write to the Penny's:

Fraser and Susan Penny
The Manse, Cathedral Street
Dunkeld
Perthshire PH8 OAW

Sharing Kindness



A friend in TN sent an Email saying she had an unexpected knock at her front door. It was 2 small girls near the ages of 7 and 9 years old. They had a bouquet of flowers from their yard, wrapped in a wet paper towel and a note attached saying sweet things such as , “you are a nice person” , “we love you!” and “you are the best!” They said there wasn’t much kindness around and they wanted to do some “kindness.” During this time of political turmoil, what a blessing it is to hear about things like this – to know people do care – that God’s love prevails on the earth and will continue to prevail! What a blessing (Submitted by Sandy Brauer)





A SPIRITUAL MOMENT

Meditations from Richard Rohr and the Center for Action and Contemplation
meditations@cac.org

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you feel alive and go do it.” The quote is from Dr. Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981), theologian and civil rights leader and it reminds me of the quote from John Kennedy when he said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country!” Both require movement and initiative on the part of the hearer. The world needs active and creative people.

Remembering from last month, we are made in the “image and likeness of God. (Gen.1:27) The divine spark of God is within each of us. John Duns Scotus called it **“thisness**. Thomas Merton called it the **“true self.”** Quakers call it the **“inner light.”** In all cases it is the point of God within us that is unique to each of us. It is a special and unique point that seeks to emerge. It requires thoughtful consideration for the noise and clatter of our days to recede and for God’s presence to surface in our lives. But when it does we feel alive and motivated.

During the time of thoughtful consideration or contemplation, as we seek to find our “true selves,” we place ourselves at a slight distance from the world.... It becomes a time to remove ourselves from the chores and daily activities of our lives and to “go into our room, shut the door and pray to your Father.” Matt. 6:6 (For more information on Contemplation and Centering Prayer you might research the writings of Cynthia Bourgeault, Thomas Merton or Richard Rohr”

In order for the time of prayer to not become escapism, we have to remain close to the world, loving it, feeling its pain and joy as though it is our own pain and joy. Given the current turmoil in our country and our world, it is relatively easy to be aware of the pain of our brothers and sisters. Thus, the goal of contemplation and reflection is to seek the presence of God within us so we feel alive and ready to move God’s presence into the world with our actions. May it be so.....

(Submitted by Sandy Brauer)

Kay and Dennis Stockdale wish to thank everyone who called, sent cards, and kept us in your thoughts and prayers during the time of Margaret's, Kay's sister, illness and death. They are still meaningful. Kay

Thank you to Jack Ballard for doing an excellent job of installing railings on both sides of the steps leading up to the Chancel area!

Steve's Slant continued...

Extending our vision, I hope that we can think together about how we can be church outside of Sunday mornings -- especially in ways that might serve to meet people's need for connection and community, and thus appeal to people who might not yet be part of our church family.

For example: maybe we could start a once a month "Dinner and a Movie" night. Let's say that on the third Friday of the month, we pick a restaurant where we can meet regularly -- one where we don't need advance reservations -- and then whoever can come will gather for dinner, and afterward go out and see a movie together. Could be a perfect opportunity to invite a friend to join you.

Or maybe we host a once a month barbeque right here on the lawn beside the chapel, and open that up to the campus community, making sure that students, faculty and staff know they are welcome to come.

Or perhaps we organize an occasional evening when the parents of our young kids can drop their children off at the fellowship hall, where there will be a group of adults waiting to look after and play with the kids -- adoptive grandparents, if you like -- while their parents enjoy a night out together.

These are just a few ideas I've had, or that others have suggested to me, about what "church" might look like outside of Sunday morning. They might not be viable -- for starters, we'd need someone to step in take the lead in organizing them.

But with the Fall seasons now on the near horizon, I offer them here to stimulate our thinking. And also because if a prospective church member visited our website, I'd love for them to find there a variety of fun things to do, and meaningful ways to serve the larger community, and inviting ways to get involved with our church family.

What does church look like outside of Sundays? Let's find out together, shall we?

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our children and youth are in the midst of Vacation Bible School July 30-August 2. The theme is "In The Name Of Love." What is love? How do we show love? What do we do when it is hard to love? How do we love the earth? Each night we have singing, food, lessons, crafts, and mission projects.

Look for an article and lots of great photos from our VBS in next month's newsletter!



DEEP CLEANING AUGUST 11

Come give the Youth Room and Nursery a good scrubbing to get ready for the Fall. Meet at 9:00 am on Saturday August 11, and if you have your favorite gloves or cleaning supplies, please bring them with you. We will be sweeping stairs, vacuuming floors, getting rid of cobwebs and mildew, picking up trash, wiping down doors, shelves and walls, you name it. If it needs cleaning or straightening, just jump in.



At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole. We are the many faces of humanity-yet as a community of faith, we are committed in our diversity to be one in Christ!

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The Extended Family [□]